

*Legends of "Time"*

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Many of our pioneers had lived adjacent to the canyons which now are world renowned and sometimes we wonder why they did not show a greater interest in their beauties. We must always remember that they were conquering a desert and nearly every hour was spent in the interest of gaining a livelihood, but in the recreation hours, history records how they went into the canyons for their celebrations, enjoyed the wonders of glorious mountains.

Nephi Johnson, one of Brigham Young's scouts, went with a party of Indian guides up into the mountains adjoining Springdale, Washington County. Through superstition, the Indians refused to enter the park, so Nephi Johnson went on alone, following up the river until he reached the narrows or to a place "where the sun is seldom seen," returning at night-fall to make his report. No doubt but what his heart was filled with the sublimity of the place.

Sometime later, Isaac Buhannin, an early pioneer of Southern Utah, visited the place, and as he gazed upon the mountain scenery, remarked that "Surely these were God's first temples and should be called Zion—or 'Little Zion' to distinguish it from the Great Temple City at Salt Lake City." William Heaps, another of the first settlers, helped to build homes near the canyon for the Saints who loved the grandeur of the now Zion Park.

Zion's Canyon, the most spectacular gorge in Zion's National Park, is about 14 miles long, varying in width from one mile to scarcely more than an arm's reach. Until a few years ago, it was unknown to most people, only the Indians and the early Mormon pioneers of that vicinity had roamed its paths. The Indians called it MUKUNTUWEAP and various Indians have interpreted it to mean "Straight Canyon," "Place of the Gods," "Place of Many Waters," and "Rock Rover's Land."

With the arrival of the Mormon Pioneers who always sent exploring parties to surrounding territory, it was renamed Little Zion. Later, in 1919, it was made a national park. The canyon is cut by the Zion Creek, which is a fork of the Virgin River. The canyon is formed by a magnificent formation of sandstone pillars and mountains. There is found rare beauty and gorgeous richness of color that can hardly be equalled elsewhere in the world. As you enter the canyon, the lofty Temples of the Virgin stand to greet you, and farther on stands the Watchman, the natural Bridge Mountain and the Three Brothers, then the East Temple, its friend, the West Temple, the Three Patriarchs and others that form an unexcelled picture that never leaves your vision once you behold its majesty. Someone has suggested that the monuments of all great men

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stand in Zion's canyon, varying in hue and color, presenting beauty that cannot be described and stunting everything in comparison by their lofty peaks and size, some of them standing straight into the skies for 7,000 feet. The Great White Throne is the largest monolith in the world.

Someone has called it the "Yosemite Valley done in oils." So it is with its mighty cliffs, surging upward in a wave of deep red that seems to change to milky white at top. It again offers nature's sculptors at their best.

## MOUNT TIMPANOGOS

Just thirty-five miles south of Salt Lake City, then turning to the east, we come to the Atlas of the Wasatch range, Mount Timpanogos.

It is a massive glacier-ribbed rock mountain, claiming an elevation of 12,000 feet above sea level. Looking from the shores of Utah lake, the mountain presents a perfect profile of the face and figure of a prostrate woman. Many Indian legends have been handed down concerning this woman's form. According to Mr. Alter in his book *Through the Heart of the Scenic West*, the mountain seems to tell its own story.

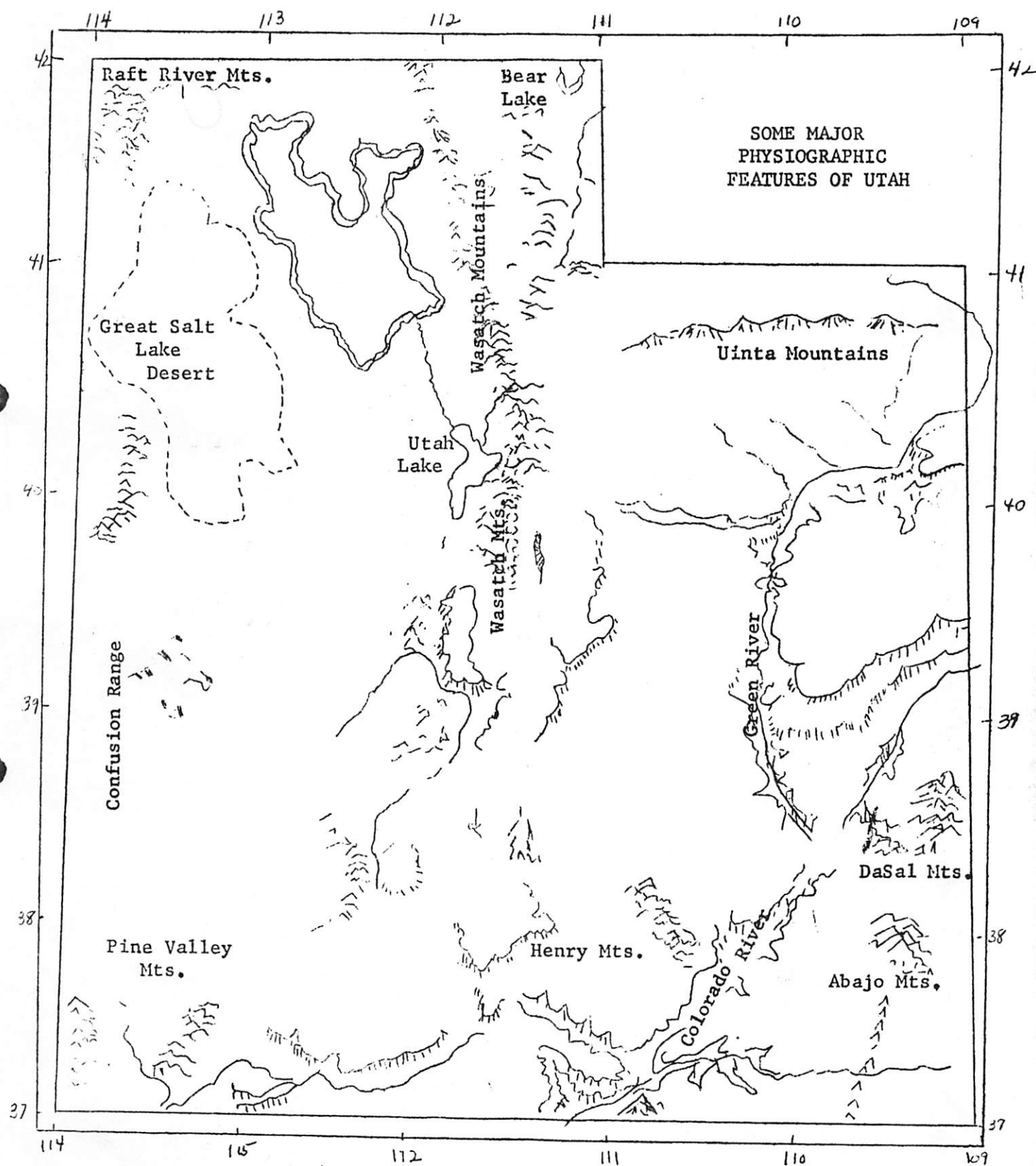
"Timpanogos, 'Rock Mountain' was feared and revered in authentic Indian lore, according to the legend picked up in Aspen Grove. Uintah Indians battled with the Piutes for supremacy in the Timpanogos region, but were overwhelmed. The beautiful daughter of the Uintah chieftain escaped, and was hotly pursued by the cruel Piutes.

"At the head of the Bridal Veil Falls, she realized the futility of farther flight. Choosing death rather than capture, she cast herself over the falls 'while angels hid their eyes and wept,' according to the Timpanogos brochure of Brigham Young University. Thus, to this day, after a drenching shower of rain, colorings from reddish soils aloft tinge the falls as an evidence of their gory past.

"Timpanogos, the mountain god, thereupon became angry with the Piutes and demanded the principal daughter of the tribe as a sacrifice. Leaving her people, she trod the hard trail alone through the canyons and aspen groves and thence by the way of the glacier to the windy, dizzy summit. There, perched on the topmost ledge, she prepared to hurl herself below in sacrifice to Timpanogos, when a handsome pursuer called her, whom she mistook for the God of Timpanogos.

"Carrying out the deception, the youth gallantly led her northward and downward to a crystal cave in the side of a beautiful canyon. It had been the home of the bears, but with all its crystal and mirror forms, she readily believed her companion to be supernatural and this his extraordinary home. But came a day when a bear wounded her lord and she realized the cruel fact he was only mortal.

"Returning from the hunt one day he missed the maiden. Surmising her destination and motive, he fled swiftly on her trail toward the mountain crest. On reaching Emerald Lake, he espied the girl flinging herself from the lofty pinnacle into the lap of Timpanogos glacier. Lifeless, her crumpled body came tumbling



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down at his feet. Gathering her in his arms, he carried the precious burden back into the crystal cavern, where, heart-broken, he expired over the form of his sweetheart. Then it was, Godlike, Timpanogos clasped the two young hearts into one, and placed it beside a mirroring pool in the cave, where it hangs today, the great Heart of Timpanogos. The maiden's form, exalted above all other earthly creations, was lifted to the mountain's crest, as on a heaven-borne bier, to remain, while the mountain endures, as the Sleeping Woman of Timpanogos."

Each year hundreds of people visit the famous cave, and remembering the legend of the mountain and the cave, hunt the bridal chamber without the bride, the bride's hope chest, the sleeping woman of Timpanogos, together with the wonderful formation of crystal forms.

## LAKES OF UTAH

The Lakes of Utah played an important part in the settling of Utah. It was near the Great Salt Lake that the pioneers built their first homes. Entering into this lake they found many streams of water, which they knew could be utilized for irrigation purposes. Great Salt Lake had been known to the civilized world for many years, Escalante, in his journal, records the story told him by the Indians of Utah Valley of the salt body of water.

"The other lake with which this communicates, occupies as they told us, many leagues, and its waters are injurious and extremely salty because the Timpanois (Indians of Utah Valley) assured us that he who wets any part of his body with this water immediately feels an itching in the wet part."

Every trapper, scout and traveler in the west returned with a story of this Salty Lake. Even today, surrounded as it is by cities, industry, and other attractions, it offers to the homeseeker and tourist alike, interesting romance. It is about 75 miles long and 50 miles wide and is said to be the saltiest body of water in the western hemisphere, its contents measuring 21 per cent salt.

"Until a person has seen the rugged, rocky shores of Antelope and Stansbury Islands, with their delightful bays, the hundreds of seagulls, pelicans, and the blue heron that nest on Bird, Gunnison, and Egg Islands, and the clear, green water in the middle of the lake, he cannot say he has seen the attractions that the Great Salt Lake has to offer from a scenic standpoint."

This marvelous lake, with an elevation of 4,000 feet above sea level, has sixteen islands that offer a view of wild life that cannot be seen anywhere else in the world.

Some of the larger islands of the Great Salt Lake were once the range of the church owned cattle, and today, one can see the old barns, corrals, fences and some dwelling places of the people who cared for the cattle on the islands. In Pioneer history, the name of Pelican Point is referred to. It is a sandpit at the south end of Hat Island and offers a

splendid harbor for the boats that sail the Great Salt Lake. Here, thousands of pelicans and gulls literally fill the sky and island, making it a natural bird sanctuary.

We, who each day see the sunset on the Great Salt Lake, have become so accustomed to it that we sometimes fail to realize its beauty, but the poet, the artist, the lover of the beautiful, say that few places in the world offer such magnificent glory.

According to Hulda Thurston Smith, pioneer of 1847, her father, Thomas J. Thurston, was one of the first men to navigate the great Salt Lake.

"My father was the first man to navigate the Great Salt Lake. He had made in the back yard, a boat to sail on the inland sea. With the help of William Potter, Joseph Mounds, and Stephen Spaulding, he launched this tiny craft, taking it by wagon to the Jordan River. He invited Jedediah M. Grant and Parley P. Pratt to go along on the holiday trip as they called it. The boat was to be christened for whatever game they first killed, which proved to be a mud hen. The boat became stuck in the mud and the party had to take off their shoes and stockings and pull it for over a mile. They rowed over to the island where they found fresh water but no game. The plan was to spend three days on the island. On the way back, a storm came up suddenly and salt spray was washed all over the tiny craft.

"This same boat, 'The Mud Hen,' was the first that ferried Bear River. Some California immigrants remembered seeing it when they were in Salt Lake City. Two men had drowned in trying to cross the river. Word was sent to father (in 1849) and he sailed the boat to the mouth of the river and took the the remaining immigrants across. Years later, when this ferry privilege was granted to William Empey, he used father's boat, 'The Mud Hen.'"

In December, 1847, Parley P. Pratt, in company with a Brother Higley and others, went on an exploring expedition to the south of Salt Lake City. These are his words:

"We traveled some thirty miles with our boat packed on an ox wagon, while some of us rode on horseback. The distance brought us to the foot of the Utah Lake, a beautiful sheet of fresh water, some thirty miles long by fifteen broad. Here we launched our boat and net, being probably the first boat and net ever used on this sheet of water in modern times.

"We sailed up and down the lake shore on its western side for many miles, but had only poor success in fishing. We, however, caught a few samples of mountain trout and other fish.

"After exploring the lake and valley for a day or two the company returned home, and a Brother Summers and myself struck westward from the foot of the lake, on horseback on an exploring tour. On this tour we discovered and partly explored Cedar Valley and there crossed over the west mountain range, and discovered a valley beyond; passing through, we crossed a range of hills northward and entered Tooele Valley. Passing still northward we camped